

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting the leadership and dedication of Mayor Musial.

THE AIRLINE PASSENGER
FAIRNESS ACT OF 1999

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support and acknowledge every airline passenger's right to a certain minimum of service. For this reason, I have joined my Senate colleagues Senator RON WYDEN and Senator JOHN MCCAIN in introducing the Airline Passenger Fairness Act of 1999, H.R. 752.

This bill requires airlines to give passengers, their customers, decent and quality service. Once upon a time, customers could count on industry and businesses to provide quality customer service as the price of doing business. Yet, lately, this industry seems to be operating under the philosophy that their customers need them more than they need their customers. The abuses have been plentiful and varied, passengers have suffered from a shortage of seating, late or canceled flights without explanation, nonrefundable tickets, and failure to disclose information that would enable them to make informed decisions about various airline rates.

The facts bare me out on this position. The 1998 Department of Transportation report stated that large United States air carriers charge twice as much as their large hub airports, where there is no low fare competition as they charge at a hub airport where a low fare competitor is present. Incredibly, the General Accounting Office discovered that fares range from 12 to 17 percent higher at hubs dominated by one carrier or a consortium. Also, the Department of Transportation's Domestic Airline Fares Consumer Report for the Third Quarter of 1997 listed seventy-five major city pairs where fares increased by 30 percent or more year-by-year, while total traffic in these cities pairs decreased by 863,500 passengers, or more than 20 percent.

This Congress should be about the work of reaffirming citizens rights in all aspects of their life. We have introduced the, "Patient's Bill of Rights" for those individuals who seek medical assistance, and we must support "The Flight Bill of Rights" for the 600 million people who use this mode of transportation per year and are increasingly dissatisfied and endangered by substandard service and treatment.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBE OF THE ROCKY BOY'S RESERVATION INDIAN RESERVED WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill to settle the water rights claims of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation in the State of Montana. This bill is the culmination of many

years of technical and legal work and many years of negotiations involving the Chippewa Cree Tribe, the State of Montana, and representatives of the United States Departments of the Interior and Justice. The bill will ratify a settlement quantifying the water rights of the Tribe and providing for their development in a manner that avoids harm to their neighbors. It provides Federal funds necessary for water supply facilities and Tribal economic development, and defines the Federal role in implementing the settlement. This Settlement bill has the full support of the Tribe, the State of Montana, the Administration, and the water users who farm and ranch on streams shared with the Reservation. The bill will effectuate a settlement that is a textbook example of how State, Tribal, and Federal governments can work together to resolve differences in a way that meets the concerns of all. It is also a settlement that reflects the effectiveness of Tribal and non-Tribal water users in working together in good will and good faith and with respect for each other's needs and concerns.

The Compact quantifies the Tribe's on-reservation water rights and establishes a water administration system carefully designed to have minimal adverse impacts on downstream non-Tribal water users, and indeed, to benefit downstream users wherever possible. This is quite an accomplishment in an area of Montana with a scarce water supply. The Rocky Boy's Reservation is located in an arid area with an average annual precipitation of 12 inches on the portion of the Reservation suitable for growing hay. Fortunately, an average annual snowpack of 30 inches in the Bearpaw Mountains within the Reservation contributes to a significant spring runoff. Effective utilization of that runoff through enlarged or new storage facilities on the Reservation is a critical part of the settlement package which this bill represents. Accordingly, \$25 million in the budget of the Bureau of Reclamation is earmarked for specified on-reservation water development projects. To meet the future water and economic needs of the Reservation, the bill contains an allocation of 10,000 acre feet of storage water to the Tribe in Tiber Reservoir, a Federal storage facility.

In addition, the bill authorizes the initial steps of a more extensive process of obtaining a long-term drinking water supply for the Chippewa Cree Tribe—a process that is vital to the survival of the Tribe. Toward that end, the bill authorizes the following: (1) seed money (\$15 million) toward the cost of a future project to import drinking water to the Reservation; and (2) funds (\$1 million) for the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to identify water resources available to meet the Tribe's future drinking water needs, to evaluate alternatives for the importation of drinking water to the Rocky Boy's Reservation, and to assess on-reservation water needs. The bill also authorizes funds for a regional feasibility study (\$3 million) to evaluate water resources over a broader area of North Central Montana that contains two other Indian reservations with unquantified and undeveloped water rights.

In closing, I believe it is not an overstatement to say that the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation Indian Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act is a historic agreement. It is a tribute to the Governor of Montana, Marc Racicot, represented by the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission; the chairman of the Tribe, Bert Corcoran and

the Tribal negotiating team; David Hayes, Counselor to Secretary Babbitt and the Federal negotiating team; and the water users on Big Sandy and Beaver Creeks in the Milk River Valley of Montana, that this Compact represents a truly local solution that takes into account the needs and sovereign rights of each party. Although numerous Indian water right settlements have been approved by Congress, none have come before us in recent years. In approving the Chippewa Cree Settlement Act, this Congress has the opportunity to send the message to western States that we endorse negotiation as the preferred method of Indian water right quantification, and that we will defer to States and Tribes to fashion their own approach to the allocation of water. I intend to work closely with Members of Congress to ensure passage of this vitally important bill this year.

HONORING MR. JACK VAUGHN,
CHAIRMAN, OPRYLAND LODGING
GROUP, FOR HIS VISION AND
LEADERSHIP

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Jack Vaughn, Chairman, Opryland Lodging Group of Nashville, Tennessee, for his vision and leadership in creating the internationally renowned Opryland Hotel and his outstanding community service.

Mr. Vaughn will officially retire from his duties at the Opryland Hotel this month but plans to continue working in a part-time capacity for the next two years. After a lengthy career in the hotel business which began at the Westin Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon, in 1959, Jack Vaughn joined the Opryland Hotel Group as General Manager in 1975, before construction on the original 600 room Opryland Hotel had even begun. Now in his 24th year with the company, Jack has risen to Chairman of the Opryland Lodging Group.

Today, Jack Vaughn's beloved Opryland Hotel boasts 2,883 rooms and 600,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space, making it the largest hotel and convention center under one roof. His promotion of convention space inside of hotels earned him a spot in the Convention Liaison Council's Hall of Leaders in 1988. The Opryland Hotel is one of the most successful in the world, and generated revenues in excess of 225 million in 1997.

Jack Vaughn's peers have recognized him many times. In 1990, Hotels Magazine named him "Independent Hotelier of the World," and later that year he was named "Resort Executive of the Year." These numerous awards also include the Arthur Landstreet Award from the Educational Institute, and the Lawson Odde Award from the American Hotel and Motel Association.

Mr. Vaughn's achievements extend into the community through his involvement in a number of civic organizations. In 1995, he was awarded the American Heart Association's Heart of the Community Award. He is a past president of the Middle Tennessee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, a board member for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, an executive committee member of the Nashville Rotary Club, past chairman of the Metropolitan Convention Center Commission, and